

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-7 have been amended. Claim 8 has been added. New claim 8 finds support in the specification as originally filed, at for example, original claim 3.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haimer, U.S. Patent No. 7,182,558 in view of Blackburn, U.S. Patent No. 6,479,782. Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haimer and Blackburn in further view of Ronen, U.S. Patent No. 5,028,178. Claim 7 has been objected to due to a typographical error.

II. § 112 Rejections

Claims 2 and 3 have been rejected for being indefinite. Specifically, claims 2 and 3 were deemed indefinite due to multiple range limitations presented in a single claim.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended so that only a single range limitation is presented in each claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection to claims 2 and 3.

III. § 103(a) Rejections

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Haimer and Blackburn fails to disclose all the elements of claim 1. Claim 1 recites an

intermediate bushing to be inserted into a central receptacle of a chuck having, amongst other elements, a through slot extending from the outer circumference to the inner circumference of the bushing. An Example of such a through slot is best shown at reference numeral 12 in Figures 3 and 4. This slot enables the bushing to be formed through electrical discharge machining in a single clamping. As noted in paragraph 26 of the specification, forming the bushing in a single clamping makes it possible to achieve high levels of production accuracy. It also eliminates the need for an initial hole to be formed in the bushing, further reducing production costs.

In contrast, Haimer fails to disclose an intermediate bushing having a through hole as recited in claim 1. Haimer discloses an intermediate bushing having axially elongated slots 61 starting from the outer lateral surface 57 and from the inner lateral surface 59 (column 10, lines 43-46, Figures 11-12). These slots, however, start at outer surface 57 or the inner surface 59 and "do not extend up to the other lateral surface 59 or 57, respectively." (column 10, lines 47-48) Therefore, Haimer fails to disclose a through slot extending from the outer circumference to the inner circumference of the bushing.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1. The remaining claims are dependent from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejections to all claims.

IV. Objection to Claim 7

Claim 7 has been amended to correct the typographical error.

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to claim 7.

V. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to Deposit Account 50-0548.

Respectfully submitted,



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